

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 11, 12, and 19, and cancel claims 8 and 9, such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A cassette for use in delivering a continuous length of filament, comprising:

a spool having a flange with a recess that is rotatably mounted in a chamber of a substantially closed housing;

a length of filament wound around the spool and having a free strand at an end thereof;

a path from the chamber to an exit orifice, in which the filament strand is positioned;

a floating tubular guide member through which the filament strand passes as it travels from the spool to the exit orifice;

means for advancing the filament strand through the exit orifice; and

a removable pin that is inserted into a recess in the cassette and the recess in the spool when the recesses are aligned to prevent the spool from rotating with respect to the cassette during transport of the cassette.

2. - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The cassette of claim 1 and further comprising an adhesive substrate positioned over the removable pin.

8. – 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The cassette of claim 1, wherein the cassette further comprises a ~~floating tubular guide member through which the filament strand passes as it travels from the spool to the exit orifice~~ ~~means for drying the filament while the removable pin is inserted into the recess in the cassette and the recess in the spool.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A cassette for use in delivering a continuous length of filament, comprising:

a spool rotatably mounted in a chamber of a substantially closed housing;
a length of filament wound around the spool and having a free strand at an end thereof;
a path from the chamber to an exit orifice, in which the filament strand is positioned;
a floating tubular guide member through which the filament strand passes as it travels from the spool to the exit orifice;
means for advancing the filament strand through the exit orifice; and
a locking pin inserted through aligned recesses of the cassette and the spool.

13. (Original) The filament cassette of claim 12, and further comprising an adhesive substrate positioned over the pin.

14. (Original) The filament cassette of claim 12, wherein the pin is inserted into a flange of the spool.

15. (Withdrawn) The filament cassette of claim 12, wherein the pin engages a hub of the spool.

16. (Withdrawn) The filament cassette of claim 15, and further comprising a cassette hub having a plurality of bosses which project into recesses in the pin, to thereby prohibit rotational movement of the pin engaged in the spool hub.

17. (Original) A cassette for use in delivering a continuous length of filament, comprising:
a spool rotatably mounted in a chamber of a substantially closed housing;
a length of filament wound around the spool and having a free strand at an end thereof;
a path from the chamber to an exit orifice, in which the filament strand is

positioned;

means for advancing the filament strand through the exit orifice; and
a floating, tubular guide member through which the filament strand passes as
it travels from the spool to the exit orifice.

18. (Original) The cassette of claim 17, wherein the tubular guide member comprises an elongated body coupled to a substantially-rigid bobber, wherein the filament strand enters the guide member through the bobber.

19. (Currently amended) A method of assembling the cassette of claim 1, comprising the steps of:

loading the spool of filament into the chamber,
threading the filament strand through [[a]] the floating tubular guide member
~~through which the filament strand passes as it travels from the spool to~~
~~the exit orifice;~~
positioning the filament strand in the path;
holding the filament in tension; and
inserting the pin.

20. (Canceled)